

20 February 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Support

THROUGH : Special Support Assistant/DDS

SUBJECT : Request for Waiver of Continued Service Agreement

REFERENCE :



1. A request for your approval is contained in paragraph 6.

2. During the 1967-1968 academic year, I participated in the Career Education Award Program as a National Institute of Public Affairs Fellow. In order to participate in this program, I was required to enter into a written agreement to continue in service with the Agency for a period, dating from the conclusion of the training program, of three times the duration of the training. In my case, this period would extend through December 1970. I signed this agreement in good conscience and with every intention of honoring its terms.

3. As I have mentioned in my letter of resignation, my academic year revived and gave purpose and direction to a long-standing concern over national problems of poverty and inequality. During a long and difficult period of reappraisal, I came to consider these problems to be the most critical ones affecting the general welfare of the country. This concern became for me a personal commitment. I concluded that I could best serve the public interest by working for improved employment, education, housing and medical services conditions for the underprivileged.

4. In exploring the possibilities in this area, I came in contact with the New England Regional Commission. This Commission is a federal-state compact chartered by the Federal Member, a presidential appointee, and six State Members, the Governors of the New England States. The functions of the Commission are:

To conduct research into important regional problems;

To plan and implement programs to foster the region's growth,

To undertake activities designed to promote maximum benefits from the expenditure of Federal, State and local funds;

To make recommendations to Federal, State and local agencies on the expenditure of funds in the fields of natural resources, agriculture, education, training, health and welfare and transportation.

The Commission staff is a regional staff, whose employees are by law neither Federal nor State employees. They participate in many of the benefits of civil service employment - retirement, life insurance, leave, etc. However, they are ineligible for career appointment and for transfer of accrued annual leave to Commission employment.

5. After serious consideration and in full recognition of the many benefits and opportunities of Agency service which I would be abandoning, I came to the conclusion that I could best serve the common good of the United States by joining the New England Regional Commission. In addition to offering a constructive approach to the problems of poverty and inequality, I feel that a regional focus is the most effective scope for planning and implementing development programs.

6. I therefore request that I be granted a waiver of the continued service agreement to pursue a career in an area which I feel is vitally related to the public interest. The intent of my action is not to leave federal service, but rather to move to a position where I feel that I can better contribute to the national welfare. Favorable consideration of this request would be deeply appreciated.

/s/

Office of SSA-DD/S

25X

SUBJECT: Request for Waiver of Continued Service Agreement

CONCUR:

20 FEB 1969

15/

Special Support Assistant, DDS

Date

The request contained in paragraph 6 is approved.

20 FEB 1969

15/

R. L. Bannerman
Deputy Director
for Support

Date

Distribution:

Orig - Dir of Trng
✓ 1 - DD/S subj w/let of resign.
1 - DD/S chrono
1 - JKH soft file w/let of resign
1 - SSA-DD/S

SSA-DD/S:JKH:lp (20 Feb 69)

20/5 Subject

Dear Mr. Bannerman,

This is to inform you of my intention to resign from the Agency, effective with the close of business, 28 February 1969.

My decision to leave is the product of long and difficult consideration. It does not result from any adverse conditions within the Agency. On the contrary, I feel that the Agency has shown me every consideration throughout the course of my more than seven years of service. I have been privileged to have an unbroken succession of diverse and progressively more challenging assignments. And, I have always felt, and feel now, that a promising career lay before me in the Agency. A man does not abandon such benefits lightly.

My decision is based on a strong desire to directly contribute to the resolution of the national problems of poverty and inequality. Ever since I thought seriously about such matters, these problems have concerned me. My undergraduate years in a Roman Catholic seminary nurtured this concern. For the past decade, encompassing my active duty with the Naval Security Group and my service with the Agency, interest in matters of national security and foreign intelligence overshadowed my concern for the problems of poverty and inequality. But my year as a National Institute of Public Affairs Fellow at Cornell University revived and gave purpose and direction to this concern.

On the basis of my interest, commitment, academic and occupational experience, I have concluded that I can better serve the general welfare of my country by participating in the planning and management of social and economic development programs. To this end, I will join the New England Regional Commission staff on 1 March 1969.

This Commission is identical in nature to the more widely-known Appalachian Commission: a compact of the federal government and the state governments of a given region instituted to coordinate the total governmental development efforts within that region. This coordination is based on the recognition of the necessary social and economic interrelationships of the communities within the region and is intended to achieve maximum impact on regional problems and maximum return on the collective investments of the federal and state governments. I am convinced that an intermediate, or regional, level is most appropriate for effectively dealing with poverty and inequality. Strictly local or strictly federal efforts each preclude the

coordination necessary for a systematic attack on general problems such as pollution, transportation and unemployment.

I am separately submitting a request to you for a waiver from the additional service agreement provisions of the Government Employees Training Act. I would appreciate your favorable consideration for this request. The intent of my departure is not to leave federal service, but to enter into an area of service in which I feel I can make a greater contribution to the general welfare of my country.

I leave the Agency with a mixture of regret for discontinued associations and gratitude for the many opportunities which have been given to me. Paramount among the regrets is the termination of my brief but memorable association with Mr. [] SSA-DD/S. In terms of personal integrity and professional competence, Mr. [] is unquestionably the finest superior I have ever had. The experience and insight I have gained under his supervision will stand me in good stead throughout my career.

I am also grateful for the opportunity of working for Mr. [] Chief, SSS/DDS. Participating in the development of the Support Information Processing System will always rank high among the challenging assignments I will encounter in my career. Mr. [] foresight, ingenuity and perseverance are largely responsible for the predictable success of this system.

I should also mention the training resources of the Agency. I am convinced of the value of the Career Trainee Program. Any contributions I may have made to the Agency have been based mainly on the comprehensive and integrated information provided by this Program, which enabled me to place subsequent work problems in a context and perspective. The dedication and the imaginative efforts of the OTR staff have permitted them to surpass the results which might be reasonably predicted for their resources.

Finally, I wish to express my deep and abiding gratitude for the opportunity of participating in the Career Education Award Program. This experience is unique in its capacity for expanding and enhancing personal and professional potential. I hope that the experience of some attrition as a proximate result of this Program will in no way detract from the Agency's current appreciation of the value of such programs.

Mr. Bannerman, I would consider myself remiss in my sense of duty to the Agency if I did not at this time volunteer some comments on areas in

which I feel that the Agency might improve its performance. These observations represent matters for which I would have offered constructive criticism and recommended alternatives had I remained with the Agency. I am submitting them in a separate memorandum.

In closing, I would like once more to express my appreciation for the many benefits of my association with the Agency. I assure you that I will try in my new career to bring credit to the Agency, which created and nourished my commitment to, and capability for, civil service.



STA